

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MHMAUGHAN:DAV

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NEA:SOBER

S/S:MR. LUERS

INR/RNA/NE:AAVACCARO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 170249

EXDIS

TAGS: PFOR.EG, IR, IZ, JO

SUBJECT: IRAQI-ARAB STATES RELATIONS

REFERENCE: TEHRAN 6206

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

1. WE CAN WELL UNDERSTAND IRANIAN SUSPICIONS OF IRAQ, BUT THERE IS SOME DIVERGENCE IN THEIR VIEWS OF THE SITUATION AND OUR OWN CURRENT ASSESSMENT. IT APPEARS TO US THAT IRAQ IS CURRENTLY GENUINELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB STATES, AND WITH WEST AS WELL. IRAQI GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY WANTS TO BREAK OUT OF ITS ISOLATION AND TO MOVE, ALBEIT GRADUALLY, INTO A POSITION WHERE IT CAN AGAIN HAVE SOME VOICE IN REGIONAL

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AFFAIRS.

2. WE BELIEVE SUCH MOVEMENT IS IN US INTEREST AND OUR INCLINATION WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF IRAQI CONTACTS WITH EGYPT, IN HOPE THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO A LESSENING OF IRAQ'S HOSTILITY TOWARD US MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE. ANY MOVE THAT WOULD EASE IRAQ MORE CLOSELY INTO LINE WITH THE MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS OF THE ARAB WORLD CAN ONLY HELP TO STABILIZE THE AREA AND MAKE OUR TASK IN ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS EASIER. AS REGARDS IRAQI DESIRE TO LOOSEN TIES WITH USSR, THIS HAS BEEN EVIDENT FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND IS OBVIOUSLY A DEVELOPMENT WE WELCOME. WE WOULD HOPE THAT IRAQI-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WOULD FURTHER REINFORCE THIS TREND. YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT WITHIN PAST YEAR IRAQ HAS ACTIVELY SOUGHT EXPANDED COMMERCIAL TIES WITH US.

3. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO SHARE ABOVE ANALYSIS WITH ALAM. ADMITTEDLY, TIME SPAN OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IS TOO BRIEF TO DRAW HARD AND FAST CONCLUSIONS AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TAKE CAREFUL LOOK AT DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOVIETS REMAIN A MAJOR FACTOR IN IRAQ AND THAT IRAQI POLICIES REMAIN FAR FROM AMENABLE TO IRANIAN AND U.S. INTERESTS, AND WOULD NOT WANT OUR ANALYSIS TO BE INTERPRETED AS SUGGESTING WE THINK THERE IS ANY CAUSE FOR COMPLACENCY ABOUT IRAQI SITUATION. WE WELCOME GOI VIEWS AND ASSESSMENTS AND WISH CONTINUE USEFUL DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH IS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. KISSINGER

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